South Scituate June 16 1853

Dear Sir

Having been several days at New Bedford. I have but just received your note in which you inform me of the desire of the Committee of Arrangements for the Annual Anti-Slavery Celebration of the 4th of July that I should preside on that occasion.

I am deeply sensible of the honour done me by this invitation, yet I feel obliged to decline the service. I am not well fitted I think, for the functions of a Presiding Officer of a Public Meeting nor do they suit my taste. But a more serious objection is, that I am apprehensive that by presiding at the meeting I should identify myself with your wing of the Anti-Slavery force more decidedly than the truth will warrant. I should be sorry to place myself in a position which need to be explained, & I am sensible that I am not entitled to full communion with the noble & earnest spirits, who in sympathy with Wm Lloyd Garrison, devote their heart & soul & strength to the to Freedom, justice & humanity — God help them, & further the great work.

I must hasten or lose the mail. I hope to be with you at Abington, though in a private capacity as heretofore —

Yours very truly
E Stetson

Leicester, Sat. 18th June —
1833

Dear Mr. Garrison;

This came to hand this morning.
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You will see that Mr. Stetson declines to preside at our Abington Meeting; and I have written to invite Charles Remond to do so. — I have also written to Mr. Stetson, to say we shall depend on a speech from him.

Suppose you invite Wm. J. Watkins to go down with us & speak. He is a good speaker, & was unfortunately cut off from his speech at the N. E. Convention by the lateness of the hour. — His trav. expenses, to & from Ab.n, should be paid. — If he consents, please insert his name in notice. —

I hear nothing yet from J. R. Lowell, as to an Ode or Hymn; but, as he doesn't refuse, I think it probable he will give us one. When you wish to select the hymns & songs, if you want some of the old standard ones, Mr. Wallcut will tell you where they may be found. I bundled away a parcel for future use. I think 300 will be enough to get printed. We may wait 8 or 10 days longer, before printing, for Lowell. But the other pieces might be selected, & so all be in readiness.

Truly Yours
Sam'l May Jr

P.S. I have just read a brief letter from Rev. G. Armstrong, saying that our dear Mr. Gestin had had an attack of paralysis, in London, — "not immediately dangerous, but demanding rest & the severest caution for the future". Miss Pugh & Mrs. McKim were "devoted" to him. — More bye & bye.